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**NAVY PHYSICIST SENTENCED FOR ENTICING A MINOR
TO HAVE SEX AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that George Paul Chambers, age 46, of La Plata, Maryland, was sentenced today by United States District Court Judge Marvin J. Garbis to 6 years imprisonment followed by three years of supervised release for using the internet to entice a minor to have sex with him and for possessing child pornography. The defendant was employed as a weapons designer for the Department of the Navy.

The conviction arose out of Chamber's arrest on June 6, 2002 by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in front of Panera Bakery at Columbia Mall in Columbia, Maryland. The FBI arrested Chambers after months of "chats" between the defendant and an FBI undercover agent posing as a 13 year old girl, during which Chambers solicited her for sex. When Chambers was arrested, the government seized a zip disk from him containing child pornography. A search of Chamber's residence uncovered additional images of child pornography that Chambers had stored on a laptop computer.

Chambers was originally tried in December 2002, which resulted in a hung jury. At the retrial in March 2004, the government presented testimony of other internet users with whom Chambers met online and ultimately in person, including one woman with whom Chambers met in a hotel and had sexual relations. In addition, although Chambers testified that child pornography was “repulsive” to him, on cross-examination the government confronted Chambers with multiple chats in which he either solicited, or sent, images of child pornography.

The court also required Chambers to register as a sex offender under Maryland law as a condition of supervised release, which the defendant is to complete after his incarceration.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ari S. Casper.